



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Ashley National Forest

Duchesne Ranger District
PO Box 981
Duchesne, UT 84021

File Code: 2810

Date: March 6, 2003

Dear Friend of the Ashley:

You are invited to provide comments regarding a proposal, submitted to the Ashley National Forest by Shamrock Mining Associates, to continue and expand mining operations at the Honeycomb Calcite Mine. This mine is located in the Blind Stream area, between 10,400 and 10,600 feet elevation, on lands administered by the Duchesne District of the Ashley National Forest. Legal location for the mining area is T2N, R8W, Section 28, Uinta Special Meridian. See the included map. Access to the mining area is via existing Forest roads #135 and #121.

The proposed mine expansion includes removal of an estimated 3,000 tons of calcite per year, with a maximum limit of 6,000 tons per year. Mining will be conducted from a narrow open pit, up to 30 feet deep, using a track-hoe excavator. The calcite ore will be loaded onto one or two 15-ton dump trucks, for transport to an off-site location in the nearby town of Hanna. A dozer or backhoe may also be used to remove the material, or load it onto trucks. Mining operations will be conducted as access allows, which is typically between June 1st and October 31st of each year. Several small structures may be located at the mine site, to facilitate mining activities, but if so, these structures will be removed at the end of each mining season.

Total disturbance for the open pit has been estimated at less than 4 acres, over a potential 15-year mine life, with less than 1 acre of disturbance at any given time, due to concurrent reclamation. Concurrent and seasonal reclamation will include backfilling, re-contouring, and reseeded of the open pit area. Minor maintenance of the existing roads will be conducted as needed, but no new roads will be constructed. No fuel will be stored on site, and all trash and refuse will be removed daily. The proposed operations are not located near any surface water. The calcite and overburden to be removed do not contain toxic or otherwise hazardous materials.

If approved, this mining operation would be permitted for up to 5 years. After that time, continued operations would require a new Plan of Operations, and the whole operation would be reevaluated. A reclamation bond is currently in place, but additional bonding may be required before the expanded operations can be approved.

If you wish to offer any comments regarding this proposed mining project, please send them to:

Clark Tucker
District Ranger, Duchesne Ranger District
Ashley National Forest, P.O. Box 981, Duchesne, Utah, 84021

To be most useful, comments should be received by our office on or before **April 10,**



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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

2003, and should include your name, address, and telephone number. Comments should include specific facts or issues, which you believe the Ashley National Forest should consider, before reaching a decision on this proposed project. Comments we receive will become part of the public record and may be made available to others upon request. For additional information, please contact Chauncie Todd at (435) 789-1181, or David Herron at (435) 781-5218.

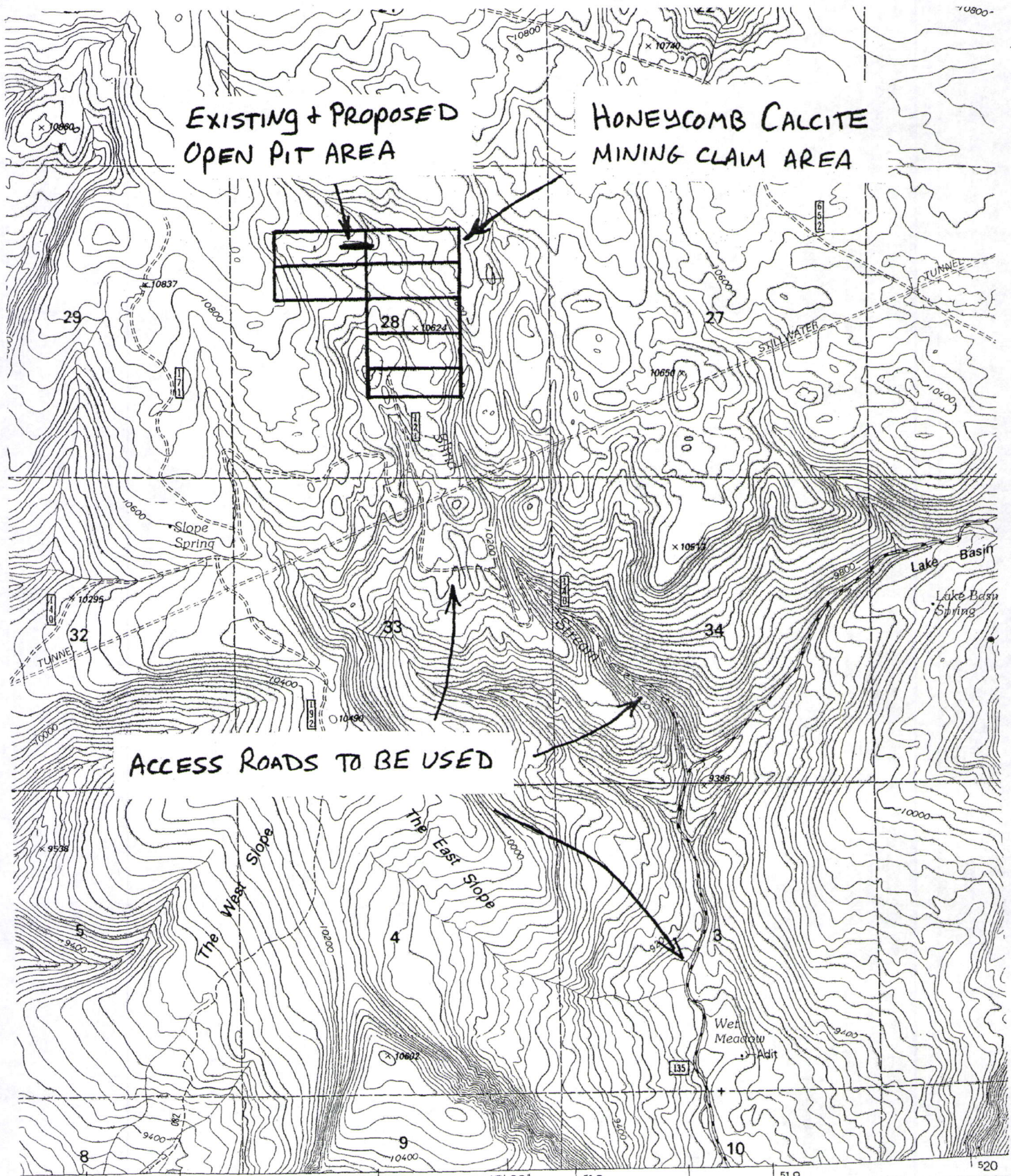
Thank you for your interest in the Ashley National Forest.

Sincerely,

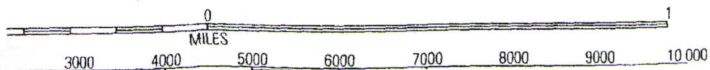
 FOR CLARK TUCKER.

CLARK TUCKER
District Ranger

Enclosure



SCALE 1:24 000



Interstate

Duchesne/Roosevelt

Minerals

Dal Quinn Mining Claims Exploration

Dave Herron

(435) 781-5218 NEPA Unknown

Scoping

Location

Dry Ridge area

Decision

Description

The District is evaluating a proposal to drill up to 25 drill holes using a small truck mounted drill rig, maintenance of a 100' section of existing road, development of an exploration shaft 10'x10'x200', and the reclamation of an existing abandoned shaft.

Status

Scoping is planned for January/February 2003.

Counties Affected

Duchesne

Districts Affected

Duchesne/Roosevelt

Cooperators

Shamrock Mining Association, Calcite Mining

Chauncie Todd

(435) 781-5114 NEPA EA

Scoping

Location

Blind Stream Area

Decision

Description

The District is evaluating a proposal for a small-scale development of a calcite deposit. Site development would include the removal of about 3000 tons of calcite per year followed by concurrent site reclamation. The area of proposed disturbance is .34 acres per year. Access and transportation routes would use existing roads. The expected duration of the project would be 15 years.

Status

Scoping is planned for January/February of 2003. Environmental Assessment is expected to be available for public review in late summer 2003.

Counties Affected

Duchesne

Districts Affected

Duchesne/Roosevelt

Cooperators

Uintah Mountain Copper Company Mineral Development

Chauncie Todd

(435) 781-5114 NEPA EA

Scoping

04-01-2000

Decision

Location

Slate Creek area

Description

The District is evaluating a proposal for small-scale development of an iron oxide deposit. Site development would include the removal of about 650 cubic yards of ore, followed by site reclamation. The proposal includes .1 acre of new disturbance. Existing roads would bring the reclaimable disturbance to about 2.0 acres. Depending on the results of the processing, a proposal for further development may be submitted or the site would be fully reclaimed.

Status

A decision to approve a modified version of the proposal was made on April 5, 2002. This decision was subsequently withdrawn pending further analysis. Analysis is continuing.

Counties Affected

Duchesne

Districts Affected

Duchesne/Roosevelt

Cooperators

Range

Squaw Creek Waterline

Roger McKinley

(435) 781-5211 NEPA EA

Scoping

04-27-2001

Decision

Location

Log Hollow Allotment

Description

The District has proposed to install six miles of waterline to six troughs on the Log Hollow Allotment in order to improve livestock distribution on the allotment

Status

A May 8, 2002 decision to approve the construction of this waterline has been withdrawn pending further analysis. Proposal is being reevaluated this winter and spring.

Counties Affected

Duchesne

Districts Affected

Duchesne/Roosevelt

Cooperators

Quarterly Schedule of Proposed Actions

Legend for NEPA Documents:

CE = Categorically excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS
 EA = Environmental Assessment
 EIS = Environmental Impact Statement
 Unknown = NEPA Analysis not yet determined
 N/A = NEPA Analysis not required

All future dates are approximate and represent only best estimates.

Ashley National Forest

Duchesne/Roosevelt

Lands/Special Uses

Fox Lake/Crescent Lake Repair

Clark Tucker (435) 781-5203 NEPA EIS

Scoping 03-19-2001 **Decision** 05-31-2003

Location High Uintas Wilderness

Description

The Dry Gulch Irrigation Company is proposing the use of mechanized equipment to repair the Fox and Crescent Lake dams in the High Uintas Wilderness. The reservoirs currently serve as a source of irrigation water to farmers in the Uintah Basin.

Status

A draft EIS was released on October 29, 2002. A Final EIS and Record of Decision is expected to be released in May 2003.

Counties Affected

Duchesne

Districts Affected

Duchesne/Roosevelt

Cooperators

Minerals

2 More Feet Mining Claim Exploration

Chauncie Todd (435) 781-5114 NEPA Unknown

Scoping

Decision

Location Lightning Ridge

Description

The District is evaluating a proposal to dig a shaft, the depth of which would be determined by exploration. Larger rock would be drilled and blasted. Waste rock would be placed adjacent to the shaft to be used for reclamation. The proposal includes a request for @ 1/4 mile cross-country travel to access the site.

Status

Proposal dropped at this time.

Counties Affected

Duchesne

Districts Affected

Duchesne/Roosevelt

Cooperators

CMS Oil and Gas Exploratory drill sites

Chauncie Todd (435) 781-5114 NEPA EA

Scoping

Decision

Location Scattered throughout the south unit.

Description

The Forest is evaluating a proposal for 4 exploratory well sites, with associated drill pads, at various sites on the South Unit.

Status

Proposal dropped at this time.

Counties Affected

Duchesne

Districts Affected

Duchesne/Roosevelt

Cooperators